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beginnings, Professor Osgood has provided one of the few treatises which are really indispensable.

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*The Anthracite Coal Communities.* By PETER ROBERTS. A Study of the Social, Educational and Moral Life of the Anthracite Regions. Pp. xii, 387. Price, \$3.50. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1904.

To all persons interested in the industrial and social life of the American people, and especially of those of foreign birth, Dr. Roberts has rendered a service in the production of this work. The present study of industrial and social conditions in the anthracite regions, shows evidence of a vast amount of research and of a large and broad experience on the part of the author. The difficulties in the way of an adequate description of the social, religious and industrial life of the many diverse peoples jumbled together in the anthracite regions, must be apparent to any one who has essayed the task. For the prosecution of this work, however, Dr. Roberts is peculiarly well equipped, having lived for the greater part of his life in this region and having by daily intercourse obtained a great body of information which he has made accessible in this book.

In view of the undoubted merits of the work before us, it is an ungrateful task to point out defects, however patent and obvious. Dr. Roberts has presented to us a large amount of information, covering every phase of the life of the native and foreign-born miner of eastern Pennsylvania, and the matter in the main is both true and original. His style of presentation, however, is bad. The work is diffuse, and is interlarded with much extraneous matter. The book also lacks a broad and basic philosophy, while it abounds in moral reflections which are somewhat obvious.

The book of Dr. Roberts is therefore valuable, not as a whole, but for its parts. If we disregard its conclusions and commentaries, there still remains a considerable fragment of the book, consisting of information and observations upon the industrial population of the anthracite regions. The author is thoroughly conversant with the statistical information previously available, and presents this matter in a clear and interesting manner. Of still greater value, however, are the individual observations of the author upon the character of the various races employed in and about the mines, their standard of living, their home life, the manner and extent of their education, the literature which they read, the religious and intellectual influences which bear upon them, their tendency toward drunkenness, their disposition to crime and pauperism, their tendency toward saving money, their attitude toward marriage, their relations toward the state and the various other elements which enter into the social, moral and industrial life of the people. In these observations of social phenomena, Dr. Roberts shows himself both acute and discerning, and his direct generalizations are always vivid, even where they are too broad to be entirely accurate.

It is impossible in the course of a short criticism to give the reader any

adequate conception of the contents of this book. Dr. Roberts divides the mining population into Anglo-Saxons (by which he means the English-speaking miners and the natives of Germany) and the Slavs (or, as he spells it, Scclavs), in which he includes all non-English-speaking peoples in the region, such as Poles, Austrians, Hungarians, Bohemians, Russians, Lithuanians, Greeks, Italians and many others. Dr. Roberts describes how the Slavs are taking the place of the English-speaking miners, how they are accumulating wealth and acquiring citizenship. In his chapter on the "Three Crises," he presents a detailed investigation of the statistics of births, deaths and marriages, showing a high death rate, and especially a high mortality for children among the non-English-speaking miners. The chapters on the standard of living, on the cost of lodging, clothes and food, also present a large amount of well-digested information; while in the following chapter Dr. Roberts makes a plea for a higher standard of living and for better housing facilities throughout the region. The book also contains chapters on the educational facilities, the intellectual and religious life, the temperance question, the facilities for saving, the criminal and dependent population and the political machinery of the region.

The book is well printed and contains a number of maps and photographs.

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*American History and its Geographic Conditions.* By ELLEN CHURCHILL SEMPLE. Pp. 465. Price, \$3.00, net. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin & Company.

Miss Semple has endeavored to describe the geographic background of American history, to show how physical conditions have influenced the settlement of the United States and the development of our national life. The author has endeavored to combine physical geography, economic geography and history in the same volume. Having studied for some years under Professor Ratzel, and having written numerous papers on different phases of American geography, Miss Semple is well qualified to deal with her subject. In the book under consideration, the author evidences a good knowledge of American history. Her information regarding transportation and industry is less thorough.

The volume opens with the geography of the discovery and settlement of the Atlantic Coast section of the United States, and then points out the influences of the Appalachian Mountains upon our colonial history and upon the westward movement of population. The geographic factors affecting the settlement of the region west of the Allegheny Mountains and the forces that brought about the Louisiana Purchase are next considered. The spread of population in the Mississippi Valley, the routes over the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific and the occupation of the Far West are described; and an account is given of the geographic factors that were influential in the War of 1812 and the Civil War. Separate chapters are devoted to the geography of inland waterways, the distribution of railroads, the distribution of cities